Out of 41 court martial cases, 35 cases are related to serious offences such as property, murder, rape and other offences of physical assault. Trial proceedings by courts martial or civil courts in such matters is an ongoing process.

(c) No amendment is contemplated as the existing law/rules are considered adequate. However, to provide a meaningful opportunity of appeal against verdicts of court martial to the officers and other ranks in courts in various parts of the country, the Government has decided to set up an Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) which would also be empowered to deal with service matters. Once the AFT and its regional benches are fully functional, it is expected to reduce the burden of the courts significantly.

Decrease in insurgency activities in Kashmir

1094. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable decrease in insurgency/extremist activities in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any demand for reduction of troop strength in Kashmir, and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Addition of multipurpose fighter aircrafts by Pakistan

†1095. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAI VORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is adding JF-17 multipurpose fighter aircraft in its Air Force fleet with the help of China and it shall get the above 8 aircrafts in the year, 2007 and 15 fighter aircrafts in the next year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan will make 400 JF-17 fighter aircrafts with the help of China;

(c) whether it is a fact that America also has agreed to the supply of F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, what immediate step Government is taking for the security of the country in view of the crisis posed by Pakistan, China and Bangladesh?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Government is aware that Pakistan has planned to develop and co-produce J-17 aircraft with the help of China for introduction in service.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government keeps a close watch on the developments taking place in the region and takes appropriate measures for the security of the country.

Purchase of C-130 Transport Helicopters

1096. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is going to purchase C-130 Transport Helicopters from U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details of such deals for the last three years, what is the present status of such deals and for how many crores of U.S. dollars contracts have been signed; and

(c) for how much amount of money India has signed agreements with other countries; the details thereof including their name and amount of contract signed with them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A Letter of Request has been sent to the Government of USA regarding C-130 J aircraft. No contract for procurement has been signed.

Ill treatment of army personnel by officers

1097. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that army personnel are being humiliated and mistreated by their senior and superior officers, resulting in increase in suicidal cases;

(b) if so, the details of such cases including attempt to suicide in the last 5 years; and

(c) what steps the Ministry is taking to check this problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The number of cases of suicide and attempted suicide in the Army during last 5 years are as follows:-

Year	Suicide cases	Attempted suicide
2002	80	10
2003	96	16
2004	100	14
2005	77	15
2006	120	34
2007 (upto 13.8.2007)	70	14